

Message Text

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REF: GENEVA 4758

BEGIN SUMMARY: AGREED CONCLUSIONS OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEE II (SCII), TRADE RELATIONS AMONG COUNTRIES HAVING DIFFERENT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS, TEMPORARILY BLOCKED BY AFRICAN BOYCOTT OF ANY ACTION BY TDB. END SUMMARY.

1. SCII COMPLETED GENERAL DEBATE AUGUST 31 IN GENERALLY NON-CONTENTIOUS ATMOSPHERE. SOCIALIST COUNTRIES EMPHASIZED RAPID GROWTH OF EAST/WEST (E-W) AND EAST/SOUTH (E-S) TRADE AND ROLE OF UNCTAD AS A UNIVERSAL TRADE ORGANIZATION. RETRACING OLD PATHS, SOCIALIST COUNTRIES INSISTED THAT UNCTAD SHOULD DEAL WITH ALL WORLD TRADE FLOWS, LINKED POSSIBILITIES OF IMPROVEMENTS IN SOCIALIST-LDC TRADE TO IMPROVEMENTS IN E-W TRADE, AND CALLED FOR CONTINUED EFFORTS IN UNCTAD TO REMOVE EXISTING OBSTACLES TO TRADE. THEY COMPLAINED OF QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS FROM SOCIALIST COUNTRIES INTO EEC AND FAILURE OF NUMBER OF COUNTRIES TO EXTEND MFN TREATMENT TO THEIR EXPORTS. ONLY GDR SPECIFICALLY COMPLAINED OF U.S. UNCLASSIFIED

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TARIFF BARRIERS.

2. MOST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MADE FAVORABLE OR NEUTRAL COMMENTS RE ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

INDIA AND PAKISTAN JOINED SOCIALIST COUNTRIES IN FAVORABLE COMMENTS ON GROWTH OF E-S TRADE AS DID MEXICO, WHICH ALSO PROPOSED SPECIAL MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATION TO DEAL WITH COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN SOCIALIST AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. NO OTHER SOCIALIST OR DEVELOPING COUNTRY SUPPORTED PROPOSAL, BUT USSR SUGGESTED MORE PERMANENT INSTITUTIONAL MACHINERY IN UNCTAD TO DEAL WITH THE SCII SUBJECT. PERU AND CHILE CALLED FOR MEETING OF GROUP OF EXPERTS IN 1974/75 TO CONCENTRATE ON STUDY OF DIRECT ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN CMEA COUNTRIES AND REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL GROUPING OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

3. COLOMBIA EXPRESSED ITS DISSATISFACTION WITH VARIOUS FEATURES OF LDC-SOC TRADE INCLUDING EXISTING PAYMENTS ARRANGEMENTS, SOCIALIST INSISTENCE ON BALANCED TRADE, AND PRICES AND SERVICING OF SOCIALIST COUNTRY EXPORTS. ITS SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDED AUTOMATIC MACHINERY FOR TRANSFERS OF PAYMENTS CREDITS. GHANA, SPEAKING FOR AFRICAN GROUP, MADE MOST EXTENSIVE CRITIQUE OF SOCIALIST-LDC TRADE IN WHICH IT POINTED OUT THAT THE BULK OF SOCIALIST TRADE WAS WITH VERY FEW DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND WAS PRINCIPALLY IMPORTS OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS. IT CALLED UPON SOCIALIST COUNTRIES TO TAKE SPECIFIC STEPS TO TRADE WITH ALL LDCC, BROADEN SCOPE OF THEIR IMPORTS AND IMPLEMENT THEIR DECLARATIONS IN UNCTAD ON TRADE, PARTICULARLY IN RESOLUTIONS 15(II) AND 53(III).

4. DEVELOPED COUNTRIES LED OFF BY JAPAN AND GERMANY RESPONDED TO THE USUAL ASSERTIONS OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. THEY EMPHASIZED THAT FOCUS OF UNCTAD AND SCII SHOULD BE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS OF LDCCS AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN SOCIALIST AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THAT ECE WAS PROPER FORUM FOR DISCUSSIONS ON E-W TRADE, AND THAT NO DIRECT CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP HAD BEEN DEMONSTRATED BETWEEN GROWTH IN E-W AND E-S TRADE. USDEL MADE LOW KEY STATEMENT REITERATING PRINCIPAL POINTS ABOVE AND STATING U.S. SUPPORT FOR EXPANSION OF WORLD TRADE IN MULTILATERAL, NON-DISCRIMINATORY ECONOMIC TERMS. VARIOUS DELEGATIONS COMMENTED UPON INADEQUACIES, PARTICULARLY IN STATISTICS, OF DOCUMENTATION.

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5. PRC DEL ALTHOUGH PRESENT FOR SCII DID NOT SPEAK. JAPAN AND CHILE COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON THEIR TRADE WITH THE PRC, BUT THERE WAS NO FURTHER DISCUSSION OF TRADE WITH CHINA IN THE COMMITTEE.

6. REPRESENTATIVES OF CMEA INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT BANK (IIB) AND INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION (IBEC), INVITED BY TDB AS OBSERVERS IN SCII, EXPLAINED THEIR PROGRAMS FOR INCREASING ECONOMIC COOPERATION OF CMEA MEMBER COUNTRIES WITH LDCCS. IIB ESTABLISHED (APRIL 1973) SPECIAL FUND TO FINANCE ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO LDCCS AND ITS DELEGATE SPOKE OF POSSIBILITY OF LDC REPRESENTATION ON FUND'S BOARD. IBEC DESCRIBED NEW POSSIBILITIES PROVIDED THROUGH THE BANK FOR SETTING

UP MULTILATERAL PAYMENTS ARRANGEMENTS IN TRANSFERABLE ROUBLES BETWEEN CMEA MEMBERS AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OR GROUPS OF COUNTRIES. VARIOUS DELEGATIONS, PARTICULARLY MEXICO, COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON BANK'S STATEMENTS, BUT NO SPECIFIC ACTIONS OR RESOLUTIONS RESULTED.

7. SEVERAL SOCIALIST AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES REFERRED TO BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS THEY HAD HAD WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SCII. GDR REPORTED NINE, FIVE WITH AFRICAN COUNTRIES. OTHERS GAVE LESS PRECISE INFORMATION. SECRETARIAT REPORTED 37 CONSULTATIONS IN ALL WERE TO BE HELD, 81 WERE HELD IN 1970.

8. AS SUBSTITUTE FOR RESOLUTIONS, CHAIRMAN (FABIAN, HUNGARY) PROPOSED A SET OF AGREED CONCLUSIONS. SECRETARIAT DRAFT ORIGINALLY TABLED WAS STRONGLY BIASED TO PRESENT SOCIALIST VIEWS. GROOUP B COORDINATOR MADE STRONG EFFORTS WITH ASSISTANCE FRENCH AND U.S. DELS TO BALANCE DOCUMENT AND REVISED SET OF ANODYNE CONCLUSIONS WAS DRAWN UP. SOME DIFFICULTY AROSE OVER PROPOSAL FOR MORE DETAILED SPLIFIC AGREED TOPICS TO BE INCLUDED ON AGENDA OF NEXT MEETING. GROUP B ATTEMPTED TO HAVE SPECIFIC TOPICS RESTRICTED TO MATTERS INVOLVING RELATIONS BETWEEN SOCIALIST AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. SOCIALISTS, PARTICULARLY USSR, REFUSED TO ACCEPT CHANGE. COMPROMISE REACHED THAT AGREED CONCLUSION SHOULD READ "CERTAIN SPEICIFC TOPICS AGREED TO BY ALL INTERESTED COUNTRIES AFTER CONSULTATIONS BY SG WITH ALL GROUPS OF COUNTRIES." AGREED CONCLUSIONS ALSO INCLUDE CALL FOR "A SESSIONAL COMMITTEE AS STIPULATED IN RESOLUTION 15(II)" FOR THE 14TH TDB.

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9. FORMAL APPROVAL OF AGREED CONCLUSIONS AND REPORT IS TEMPORARILY BLOCKED BY AFRICAN GROUP REFUSAL PARTICIPATE IN TDB ACTION ON ANYTHING UNTIL COFFEE PROBLEM RESOLVED (SEE GENEVA 4758).

10. COMMENTS: SCII WAS AN OCCASION FOR LENGTHY ENCOMIUMS BY THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ON THE EXPANSION AND BENEFITS BESTOWED ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THROUGH TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. LDCS DID NOT FOLLOW UP ON CRITICAL REMARKS, PARTICULARLY ON COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT BY GHANA, AND DID NOT INSIST ON EXTENSIVE INCLUSION OF THEIR CRITICAL COMMENTS IN COMMITTEE REPORT. INDIA AND OTHER LDCS INDICATED PRIVATELY THAT THEY WERE UNWILLING TO CRITICIZE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AGGRESSIVELY FOR FEAR OF UPSETTING EXISTING OR POTENTIAL TRADE ARRANGEMENTS. NASSIN

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